Taymanitic

Taymanitic is the language and script of the oasis of Taymāʾ in northwestern Arabia, dated to the second half of the 6th century BCE.[2]

Taymanitic	
Region	Taymāʾ
Era	second half of the 6th century BCE
Language family	Afroasiatic ▪ Semitic ▪ West Semitic ▪ Central ▪ **Taymanitic**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (mis)
Glottolog	taym1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/taym1240)[1]

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Classification

Taymanitic does not participate in the key innovations of Proto-Arabic, precluding it from being considered a member of the Arabic language family. It shares one key isogloss with Northwest Semitic: the change *w* > *y* in word-initial position. Examples include *yrḫ* for *warḫum 'moon, month' and *ydʿ* for *wadaʿa* 'to know'.[3]

It is clear that Taymanitic script expressed a distinct linguistic variety that is not Arabic and not closely related to Hismaic or Safaitic, while it can tentatively be suggested that it was more closely related to Northwest Semitic.[4]

Phonology

Consonants

Consonant phonemes[5]

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Pharyn-geal	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t d		k g		ʔ
Ejective plosive		tʼ		kʼ		
Affricate		ts dz				
Ejective affricate		tsʼ				
Lateral fricative		ɬ				
Lateral ejective affricate		tɬʼ				
Fricative		s		x ɣ	ʕ ħ	h
Nasal	m	n				
Trill		r				
Approximant			j	w		
Lateral approximant		l				

Vowels

Monophthong phonemes

	Short		Long	
	Front	**Back**	**Front**	**Back**
Close	i	u	iː	uː
Open	a		aː	

Diphthong phonemes[5]

	Closer component is front	Closer component is back
Opener component is unrounded	aɪ	aʊ

Characteristics

Taymanitic exhibits two major features which are innovative:[3]

1. The change *w* > *y* in word-initial position: *yrḫ* for *warḫum 'moon, month' and *yd ʿ* for *wada ʿa* 'to know'.
2. The mergers **z*, **ḏ* > **z*, **s*^{3}, **ṯ* > **s*^{3}, and **ṣ*, **ẓ* > **ṣ* (loss of interdentals).

Unlike Arabic, Taymanitic does not exhibit the merger of Proto-Semitic [s] and [ts].

References

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3. "Al-Jallad. The earliest stages of Arabic and its linguistic classification (Routledge Handbook of Arabic Linguistics, forthcoming)" (https://www.academia.edu/18470301/Al-Jallad._The_earliest_stages_of_Arabic_and_its_linguistic_classification_Routledge_Handbook_of_Arabic_Linguistics_forthcoming_). *www.academia.edu*. Retrieved 2015-12-08.
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This page was last edited on 22 September 2019, at 15:55 (UTC).

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